

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors Meeting  
September 7, 2010  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Mark Lofstrom (President), Jane Schommer (Vice President), Ginna Portman Amis, Sue Durfee, Harvey Ettinger, Shotsie Forsythe, Tina Frontera, Rose Matthys, and Michael T'Kach

Other residents and guests: June Burd, Leslie Foreman, Nancy Johnston, Jan Prescott, Michael Rossini, Amy Sanborn, Linda Schutz, Monica Smith, Jeanne Blenkush Warren, and Mike Warren.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Announcements**

- Mark Lofstrom announced that the Great Street Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program is available for Lake Street. Hennepin Avenue is not eligible.
- Mark reported that he is waiting to hear back from Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) regarding his request for clarification on the amount of funding that EIRA will receive in administrative dollars beginning in 2011. Neighborhoods have 45 days to comment on NCR's draft of the Community Participation Program Guidelines. Community meetings will be held to gather feedback.

**Membership Mailing Update**

Treasure Peter Levine was absent but sent this report of the successful membership mailing. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 21 new members joined EIRA and 93 people renewed their memberships. Membership dues collected as of September 1<sup>st</sup> amounted to \$1,860 plus an additional \$786 in donations to EIRA totaling \$2,646.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mark gave the Treasurer's report in Peter's absence. As of 9/1/10 EIRA's checking account balance was \$1,966.05 plus and additional \$10,033.09 in savings and CD. The balance of the NRP account is \$5,926.02. EIRA had \$3,138.43 in expenses since the last report relating to the membership mailing and the Ice Cream Social. NRP expenses since last report totaled \$1,436.98.

Amy Sanborn presented a \$341 check to EIRA from the Uptown Art Fair pop booth proceeds.

**Residential remodeling**

Mike and Jeanne Warren presented their plan for remodeling their duplex at 2844 Irving. The home is and always has been a duplex. The Warrens would like to make improvements to the home that would include enclosing a front porch (both stories), making repairs to the back of the home and bumping out 8 1/2' on the side yard. They will be increasing the footprint of the home by 244 sq. ft. They may require variances

from the city because of a change in zoning in 1983 that restricts the size of homes on the west side of Irving. The board indicated that the proposed improvements seemed appropriate and tasteful and requested that the Warren's report back to EIRA when they have more information about any required variances from the city.

### **City Council Update**

Leslie Foreman represented Meg Tuthill and shared the following information:

- Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward e-newsletter
- Mayor Rybak proposed his budget, and it includes a 6.5% levy increase. The Board of Estimate and Taxation will set the maximum levy amount on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Meg would like feedback from residents on your top three suggestions for areas to cut in the budget and well as your top three areas you oppose cutting.
- There are many openings on city boards and commissions. For a complete list go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and search "board". Let Meg know if you are interested in serving on a particular board or commission.
- Lowry Hill East home tour is Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>
- The City is reviewing a request from the bicycling community to remove the stop signs on the Greenway at James, Irving and Humboldt. The Greenway Coalition supports removing the stops signs. Meg's position is to agree with the removal of the stop sign at James but to keep the signs at Irving and Humboldt. Meg is proposing adding larger 3-way stop signs at Irving and Humboldt crossings. In general, the board was very concerned about safety and traffic if the stop signs are removed.
- The next Meet with Meg is Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, noon-1 p.m. at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Room, 3101 Nicollet Avenue S. Bring your own lunch. Meg will provide lemonade and dessert.

### **Lighting on Lake of the Isles Parkway**

Harvey Ettinger gave an update on the status of replacing the street lights that have been on Lake of the Isles Parkway since the 1960's. The Park Board has been replacing the 60's lighting with a historical light pole. There are a total of 94 light poles around the lake of which 53 still need to be replaced with the historic poles. Public Works has funding to install another 10-15 poles this year with the goal of completing the replacement around the whole lake in the near future.

### **Social Committee Report**

Amy Sanborn gave the following updates regarding social activities in East Isles:

- EIRA raised \$341 by staffing the pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair.
- The Ice Cream Social was held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and a big success. EIRA would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support for the event: Kowalski's donated ice cream, Isles Bun and Coffee donated cookies, and Peterssen/Keller Architecture and Isles Realty donated the printing of fliers for the event. Expenses for the event were \$2,005.54. The largest expense items were the bounce houses and the petting zoo.
- Palio will be held on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Amy and Shanti Mittra are co-chairing the event. East Isles resident are invited to wear raccoon masks and the color blue and meet at Triangle Park at 12:15 p.m. for the parade to Kenwood Park. New this year:

music competition, bocce ball tournament and badminton tournament. The event has typically been a fundraiser for the Kenwood Rec Center and Park. Shanti is proposing that the profits be split between the Rec Center and the organizing neighborhood.

Amy will research printing East Isles t-shirts for the event. The board unanimously approved the request to sponsor the Palio event (\$300).

- The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Calhoun Square from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The neighborhood will keep 100% of the proceeds from advance ticket sales by EIRA (and one-quarter of proceeds from tickets sold at the door). The tickets will be available on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Amy will get tickets to board members willing to promote the event. This is the biggest fundraiser for the neighborhood, so ticket sales are strongly encouraged. This year's sponsors are: Hennepin Lake Liquors, Il Gatto, Calhoun Square and Great Clips.
- The board thanked Amy for doing a wonderful job organizing the social events.

### **NRP Update**

Monica Smith, NRP Consultant, spoke about the outreach effort at the Ice Cream Social. Residents were encouraged to offer ideas for East Isles Phase II funding. Betsy Allis, Judy Enenstein and Monica have been drafting a survey to gauge people's interest on a variety of ideas for the Phase II funds. The survey will be mailed to all East Isles residents. The survey will be pre-tested to make sure instructions are clear and the questions are valid. The NRP Participation Agreement has a budget of \$2,500 for printing and mailing the survey. The committee is confident that the expenses will come in under budget. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity.

### **EIRA**

- Saleem Karmaliani will be taking over the Membership duties from Shanti Mittra.
- Tina Frontera was unanimously approved for the position of Secretary.
- The Board unanimously voted to pay Monica Smith on an hourly basis for recording the minutes from the EIRA board meetings for the remainder of 2010. Tina made a \$200 donation to EIRA to fund this task.
- Peter Levine is resigning as Treasurer effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Al Rodriguez was unanimously approved to become Treasurer upon Peter's resignation.
- The board unanimously approved allowing electronic approval of the meeting minutes.
- Mark is pursuing making updates to the East Isles website.
- Mark has been sending meeting notices, tentative agendas and final agendas electronically.

EIRA's semi-annual members' meeting will be Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church. All residents are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder and Tina Frontera, Secretary